CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (previously presented) A method of assigning service priorities to traffic from a plurality of sources using meters, the method comprising:

receiving a packet that is placed into a specific class of service (COS) group pertaining to a specific service being tracked and controlled;

determining a fabric-adjusted meter modifier depending on a payload size of the packet and on technology of a limiting uplink being used; and

adding the fabric-adjusted meter modifier to a meter corresponding to the specific COS group, wherein the meter comprises a counter that tracks traffic associated with said service over a period of time, and wherein said adding updates the meter.

2. (cancelled)

3. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
determining if the meter exceeds a black-type limit for the specific COS group; and
if the black-type limit is exceeded, then dropping the packet.

4. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
determining if the meter exceeds a red-type limit for the specific COS group; and
if the red-type limit is exceeded, then lowering a priority level of the packet.

5. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
determining if the COS meter exceeds a limit for the specific COS group and
if the limit is exceeded then perform an action specified for the limit.

6. (currently amended) The method of claim [[2]] 1, wherein determining the fabric-adjusted meter modifier comprises retrieving a modifier value associated with the payload size from a technology-specific look-up table.

7-8.   (cancelled)

9.   (previously presented) An apparatus for forwarding traffic from a plurality of sources, the apparatus comprising:

a port for receiving a packet that is placed into a specific COS group pertaining to a specific service being tracked and controlled;

calculation circuitry configured to determine a fabric-adjusted meter modifier depending on a payload size of the packet and on a technology of an uplink being used;

update circuitry configured to add the fabric-adjusted meter modifier to a meter corresponding to the specific COS group, wherein said meter comprises a counter that tracks traffic associated with said service over a period of time.

10.   (cancelled)

11.   (original)   The apparatus of claim 9, further comprising:

comparison circuitry configured to determine if the meter exceeds a black-type limit for the specific COS group; and

non-forwarding circuitry for dropping the packet if the black-type limit is exceeded.

12.   (original)   The apparatus of claim 9, further comprising:

comparison circuitry configured to determine if the meter exceeds a red-type limit for the specific COS group; and

prioritization circuitry for lowering a priority level of the packet if the red-type limit is exceeded.

13.   (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the calculation circuitry comprises a technology-specific look-up table.

14.   (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the calculation circuitry comprises a plurality of comparators and an adder to sum outputs of the comparators.

15.　　(previously presented)　A system for routing traffic from a plurality of sources using class of service (COS) meters, the system comprising:

　　　　means for receiving a packet that is placed into a specific COS group pertaining to a specific service being tracked and controlled;

　　　　means for determining a fabric-adjusted meter modifier depending on a payload size of the packet and on a technology of an uplink being used;

　　　　means for adding the fabric-adjusted meter modifier to a COS meter corresponding to the specific COS group, wherein said meter comprises a counter that tracks traffic associated with said service over a period of time, and wherein said adding updates said meter.

16.　　(previously presented)A method of implementing class of service (COS) functionality in a telecommunications system, the method comprising:

　　　　defining a user-configurable function by way of a user interface; and

　　　　assigning the user-configurable function to be a meter modifier function associated with a class of service group in the system, wherein the meter modifier function depends on a payload size of a packet and is used to adjust for a fabric uplink technology,

　　　　adding the meter modifier function to a group meter, wherein said adding updates the group meter.

17.　　(cancelled)

18.　　(original)　　　The method of claim 16, wherein the user-configurable function depends on a current value of the meter.

19.　　(original)　　　The method of claim 16, wherein the user-configurable function depends on a last destination of a packet forwarded by the system.

20.　　(cancelled)

21.　　(previously presented)　A method of implementing class of service (COS) functionality in a telecommunications system, the method comprising:

defining multiple user-configurable meter modifier functions by way of a user interface, said meter modifier functions to be added to meters to update said meters; and

assigning each service class of a set of service classes to one of the user-configurable meter modifier functions, wherein the meter modifier functions are dependent upon packet payload size and which type of fabric-uplink technology is used.

22. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the fabric-adjusted meter modifier is different for hardware-based and software-based routing.

23. (previously presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the fabric-adjusted meter modifier is different for tagged and untagged hardware-based routing.

24. (previously presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the fabric-adjusted meter modifier is different for hardware-based routing to an Ethernet link and hardware-based routing to a Synchronous Optical NETwork (SONET) link.

25. (cancelled)

26. (previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein determining the fabric-adjusted meter modifier comprises summing outputs from a plurality of comparators with the payload size if specified by a user-configurable flag.